



Canajoharie mother on duty in Iraq loses custody rights

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ALBANY -- An appellate court ruled against a Canajoharie woman who lost custody of her son while she was on military duty in Iraq.

Gregory Rinckey, who is also a former Army JAG attorney, says Friday's decision against Tanya Towne has a tremendous impact on anyone who's a single parent and in the National Guard.

"Because while you're deployed you have to be worried is your ex or the courts going to try to flip-flop a custody arrangement you made many years ago, so it's a very disturbing development in family law for military members," Rinckey said.

Rinckey believes Congress should put together legislation to prevent courts from switching custody for service members who are deployed. It would be similar to the uniformed service employment rights act which protects full-time employment.